

#9 / Response
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luIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Daniel Mui and Alexander Marquez
Title: Use of Remote Controls for Audio-Video Equipment to Control Other Devices
Application No.: 09/655,733 Filing Date: September 6, 2000
Examiner: Brown, Vernal U. Group Art Unit: 2635
Docket No.: ZILG.237US0 Conf. No.: 9029
(formerly M-10913 US)

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RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated July 30, 2003, and summarizes the content of a telephone interview with Examiner Vernal Brown held on October 28, 2003, by the undersigned attorney and the inventor Daniel Mui.

Pending claim 24 specifies apparatus having a memory storing signal patterns "emitted by each of a plurality of remote controls of audio-video equipment," and a signal decoder utilizing the stored signal patterns to generate a control signal that causes a designated function to be performed when a corresponding signal pattern is received from one of the plurality of remote controls.

The rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,309,275 ("Fong") is respectfully traversed. No suggestion has been found in the Fong reference for storing signal patterns of a plurality of remote controls in the memory of an infra-red signal receiving apparatus. The Office Action identifies column 13, line

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60 through column 14, line 2 of the Fong reference as disclosing this. But no such disclosure has been found in the identified portion. What is disclosed is a receiving device that can be programmed to recognize signals emitted by a remote control but nothing has been found in Fong that suggests storing signals of a plurality of remote controls. Indeed, the identified passage of the Fong reference appears to suggest associating a single set of stored signals with a corresponding set of actions that are initiated in response to receiving particular ones of the stored signals from a remote control.]

The above was explained to Examiner Brown during the telephone interview, who expressed agreement that the Fong reference does not anticipate claim 24 for these reasons. Its dependent claims 25 – 28 are therefore also not anticipated. Claims 24 – 28 are thus allowable.

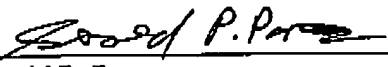
Independent claims 8 and 16, as well as their respective dependent claims 9 – 15, 17 and 18, are also believed to be allowable for the same reason. Each of claims 8 and 16 recite a receiver that recognizes signals emitted by any one of a plurality of remote controls, and a decoder that matches one such signal with that received from a remote control in order to execute a specific function. The cited Fong reference does not suggest a device having a capability of receiving control signals emitted by any of a plurality of remote controls and then acting upon the received signal. Additional references used by the Office Action to form an obviousness rejection of claim 16 and various dependent claims are not cited for the missing disclosure of the primary Fong reference.

Upon an indication that claims 8 – 18 and 24 – 28 are being allowed, the remaining claims 1 – 7 will be cancelled.

The cover page of the Office Action identifies claims 1 – 28 as pending in the present application but it should be noted that claims 19 – 23 were previously cancelled.

Should Examiner Brown have any questions or any further matters that need to be resolved, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at his direct dial number given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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